

DD/M&S 74-1963

7 JUN 1974

DD/M&S Registry
File Security-2

Mr. William L. Brown
Executive Director
Interagency Classification Review Committee
National Archives Building
Seventh Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20408

Dear Mr. Brown:

It is correctly noted in your memorandum of 24 May 1974 that the majority of the classification actions reported by the Agency on a quarterly basis to the Interagency Classification Review Committee has been exempted from the General Declassification Schedule. This situation is easy to explain, but difficult to remedy.

As I believe you are aware, the classification actions reported by the CIA are limited almost exclusively to the documents entered into the Data Index--i.e., finished intelligence studies. Finished intelligence studies typically draw upon numerous source documents, including raw information reports and cables originated by this Agency and other organizations as well. A high percentage of these source documents is exempted by the originators. Unless the author of the finished intelligence study obtains permission from the originator of the source document to waive the exemption--and such an action would usually be ruled out by the requirement for timeliness--the exemptions must be carried over to the finished study.

Clearly, the possibility for reducing the percentage of finished intelligence studies which is exempted from automatic downgrading and declassification rests on devising methods which would obviate the need for exempting source documents--the raw information reports and cables. In all candor, I must state that the prospects for achieving this are not good. The Agency, of course, has no jurisdiction over the exemption criteria of other originating agencies. With respect to its own raw product, the CIA has a firm commitment to protect information received from foreign liaison channels (5B(1)). Information derived from compartmented technical collection systems (5B(2)) has been exempted by community-wide agreements, and such exemptions appear to be thoroughly justified by the

- 2 -

sensitivity of the sources and methods involved. Information exempted under 5B(3) must be protected because of the subject content of the document itself.

Suggestions have been made, however, that changes in the format of reports based on human sources could be implemented which would enable the Agency to make a significant portion of such reports subject to the General Declassification Schedule. These reports have always included a description of the source in order to assist readers in evaluating the accuracy and reliability of the subject matter content. In order to protect the source, the reports are exempted under 5B(2) and, occasionally, 5B(4). In some instances, access to the information being reported is limited to so few individuals that the source could be deduced from the content of the report. Such documents must continue to be exempted. The remainder, however, could, through the simple expedient of omitting any description of or reference to the source of the information, be declassified after the passage of six or eight years.

It is obviously in the interest of the Agency and the public at large that as large a proportion of the organization's published product as possible be made subject to the General Declassification Schedule. Accordingly, prior to receipt of your memorandum, I had directed that the feasibility of discontinuing the practice of including source descriptions in raw information reports and cables be explored. Alternative means of providing source information to those with a need-to-know would have to be developed, and, of course, the approval of top management would be required for so fundamental a break with traditional reporting procedures. You will be advised as to the outcome.

Sincerely,

/s/ Harold L. Brownman

HAROLD L. BROWMAN

erman
view Committee

AT
Originated by:

AT
ISAS:CPB: [redacted]
(31 May 1974)

Distribution:

- Orig. - Addressee
- 2 - DDM&S Chrono Subject
- 1 - ISAS
- 1 - OGC

INTERAGENCY CLASSIFICATION REVIEW COMMITTEE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20408

MAY 24 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR:

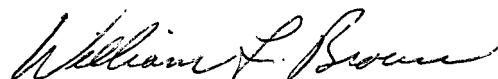
HAROLD L. BROWNMAN
CHAIRMAN, DEPARTMENTAL
REVIEW COMMITTEE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
AGENCY

SUBJECT:

EXEMPTIONS FROM GENERAL
DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE

In reviewing the Calendar Year 1973 Quarterly Summary Reports, it was noted that the CIA is exempting the overwhelming majority of its classification actions from the General Declassification Schedule. This same trend is reflected in the agency's recently submitted Quarterly Summary Report for the 1st quarter of Calendar Year 1974.

While the ICRC realizes that a large percentage of the documents classified by the CIA fall within exemption category 2 covering sources and methods, we would appreciate it if you would thoroughly review this matter in order to determine if any additional steps might be taken to assure that exemptions will "be kept to the absolute minimum consistent with national security requirements." Please furnish the ICRC with a report of the results of your review.



WILLIAM L. BROWN
Executive Director

CC: JOHN WARNER
GENERAL COUNSEL


RECORDS MANAGEMENT OFFICE

☐ UNCLASSIFIED☐ INTERNAL
USE ONLY☐ CONFIDENTIAL☐ SECRET

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM:

C/ISAS 2E42 HQS.

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

31 May 1974

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

OFFICER'S
INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1. DDM&S
Mr. Brownman

6/7

2. Registry

3.

4.

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15.

3 June

Note: Mr. [] phoned on Friday to say that "in STA the interest of saving paper" they would not retype the attached even though one line is darker than the others.

I think it would have been better to have typed the address as follows:

Mr. William L. Brown, Executive Director
Interagency Classification Review Committee
National Archives Building
Seventh Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20408

(over)

☐ SECRET☐ CONFIDENTIAL☐ INTERNAL
USE ONLY☐ UNCLASSIFIED

DD/M&S Registry
File Security 2

Chief, ISAS

Gail:

Would appreciate your taking action
to draft a response for my signature.

131 Harold/j
Harold

Suspense: 5 June 1974

AT DD/M&S 7D-26



5/29/74

Att: DD/M&S 74- 1927, Memo from William L. Brown, Executive Director
Interagency Classification Review Committee to HLBrownman, Chairman,
Departmental Review Committee, CIA, dtd 24 May 1974

CLASSIFICATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20408

MAY 24 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR:

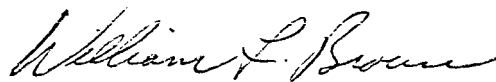
HAROLD L. BROWMAN
CHAIRMAN, DEPARTMENTAL
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WILLIAM L. BROWN
Executive Director

CC: JOHN WARNER
GENERAL COUNSEL


RECORDS MANAGEMENT OFFICE

UNCLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

SECRET

DD/M&S Registry
File *Security 2*

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

Routing Slip

TO:		ACTION	INFO	DATE	INITIAL
1	DCI				
2	DDCI				
3	DDS&T				
4	DDI				
5	DDO				
6	DDM&S	✓		7-19-73	<i>[Signature]</i>
7	D/DCI/IC				
8	D/ONE				
9	OGC				
10	OLC				
11	IG				
12	D/PPB				
13	D/Pers				
14	D/OS				
15	D/Trng				
16	SAVA				
17	ASST/DCI				
18	AO/DCI				
19					
20	SAIC	✓			
21					
22					
SUSPENSE		Date			

Remarks:

*For further distribution
as appropriate*

Executive Secretary

Date

Distribution:

Orig RS - SAIC w/Att (DD/M&S 73-2914)

✓ 1 - DD/M&S Subject w/Att

DD/M&S 73-2914: Ltr to Heads of Depts & Agencies fr James B. Rhodds, Acting Chmn,
Interagency Classification Review Committee, subj: Summary of
Actions by the Interagency Classification Review Committee (#1)

DD FORM 1
73-2914

Executive Registry

73-4049

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 17, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HEADS OF

DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF ACTIONS BY THE INTERAGENCY
CLASSIFICATION REVIEW COMMITTEE (#1)

As you may know, a year ago the Interagency Classification Review Committee was established by President Nixon to assist the National Security Council in monitoring implementation of Executive Order 11652 on classification and declassification. The members of this Committee include a Chairman designated by the President, the Archivist of the United States, and senior representatives from each of the departments of State, Defense, and Justice, the Central Intelligence Agency, the Atomic Energy Commission and the National Security Council staff.

Inasmuch as decisions of the Interagency Committee may have an impact on departments and agencies other than those represented on the Committee, it was decided at the last meeting to establish an information memorandum summarizing the Committee's actions addressed to the heads of the departments and agencies and the chairmen of the Departmental Classification Review Committees. Accordingly, this memorandum is the first in that series.

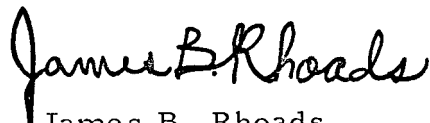
The following is a summary of actions by the Interagency Committee at its meeting on June 13, 1973:

1. Except for "Restricted Data" and material designated as "Formerly Restricted Data" under the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, Executive Order 11652 provides that the head of a department or agency has the authority to downgrade or declassify any classified information originated by his department or agency and no longer requiring the same level or any level of protection in the

national security interest. The downgrading or declassification of such information may either be by categories of information, items of information, or information contained in specific documents. This matter was discussed by the Committee with reference to material classified pursuant to Executive Order 10501, as amended and placed in the Group 3 category which prior to June 1, 1972 would have resulted in automatic downgrading at 12 year intervals to the level of Confidential. Under Executive Order 11652, such automatic downgrading ceased to occur after the effective date of the Order. It was the recommendation of the Committee that department and agency heads consider authorizing application of this or a speedier downgrading schedule for such classified material.

2. A subcommittee of the ICRC has been established and is engaged in a series of working sessions to propose standard and optional forms related to classified document security.

3. The Committee approved amendments to a department's regulations on classification and declassification which grant a requester 30 days after receipt of notice of denial in which to appeal to the Departmental Committee the denial of a mandatory declassification request pursuant to Executive Order 11652. In the same regulations, it is provided that a requester may also appeal to the Departmental Committee if no determination is made on the request at the end of 60 days after receipt of the request by the Department concerned.



James B. Rhoads
Acting Chairman
Interagency Classification
Review Committee